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By fax and mail

Dear Sirs,

International (PCT) Patent Application No. GB2004/005007
Disposable Cash Box
Money Controls Limited
Our ref: MCR/44846PCT2

We request Chapter II processing of this application.

We file herewith claims 1 to 70 replace the claims as originally filed. The following changes have been made:

Claims 1-16 are new claims.

Claims 17-34 correspond to claims 4-22 as originally filed.

Claims 1-3 as originally filed have been deleted.

Claim 35 corresponds to claim 22 and 23 as originally filed, with further amendments as discussed below.

Claim 36-44 correspond to claims 24-32 as originally filed.

Claims 33-35 as originally filed have been deleted.

Claims 45 –61 correspond to claims 36-52 as originally filed.

Claim 62 corresponds to claims 53 and 54 as originally filed with further amendments as discussed below.

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Claims 63-70 correspond to claims 55-61 as originally filed.

Claims 62-66 as originally filed have been deleted.

Remarks

The present invention is directed to packaging for a stack of monetary objects such as banknotes, in which the stack is sealed within a container, which once opened cannot be reused, in order to deter pilfering.

According to the invention, an RFID device is packaged within the container, which can include identification data and/or data relating to the content of the container. The container can be opened at a secure location and, once opened is disposed of, typically by sending it to a plastics recycling facility. D1 cited in the written opinion of the International Searching Authority discloses a non-disposable cassette with a non-volatile memory for recording data corresponding to the sheet objects stacked in the container. The Examiner indicates that it would be obvious to replace the non-volatile memory by an RFID device, on the basis that document D3 discloses the use of an electronic tag.

The problem left outstanding by the prior art is that when using a disposable container, as in the present invention, the memory that contains data about the sheet objects stored in the container, would be destroyed if sent to a plastics recycling facility with the opened container, once the container is opened.

The present invention overcomes this problem by providing an RFID device to be packaged within the container so as to be removable from the container when opened, for re-use in another such container. In this way, the RFID device can be reused. Furthermore, the opened container, with the RFID device removed, can be sent to a recycling facility. Typically, the container is made of recyclable plastics material so that it can be ground up and if appropriate, remoulded into replacement containers for further use. Thus, according to the invention, the RFID device is reused without being destroyed in the recycling process.

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New claims 1-16 are directed to this concept. Considering new claim 1, it is based on claim 62 as originally filed and further recites that the container (4) is configured so that once opened, it cannot be reused for packaging monetary objects, i.e. is designed for one-time use. Support for this feature can be found on page 12, second paragraph as originally filed.

Claim 1 further recites that the RFID device (21) is removable from the container when opened for re-use in another said container. Support for this amendment can be found on page 16, second paragraph of the description as originally filed.

New method claim 9 relates to a method of processing monetary objects in which they are packaged in a stack within the container, which once opened cannot be reused for packaging, and providing an RFID device within the container so as to be removable from the container when opened for reuse in another such container.

Dependent claim 10 further recites the step of removing the monetary objects from the opened container and removing the RFID device from the container so that it can be reused in another such container.

Independent claim 17, which corresponds to claim 4 as originally filed, has been amended to emphasise that the container is for one-time use and that the RFID tag can be removed for reuse in another container. Similar comments apply to the other independent claims as originally filed that remain in the application.

It is submitted that the invention as now defined in the independent claims is not disclosed or rendered obvious by any of the other references cited by the Examiner, namely D2, D4 or D5.

Yours faithfully,



Matthew Read

Authorised Representative